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Judge: City can evict Occupiers

- Court says First Amendment doesn't give protesters the right to hold on to land
- City asks group to leave voluntarily
- Organizers say they plan to appeal {page 02}

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Occupy Boston member John Ford reads from the court's decision during the group's general assembly last night.

News

Stores plan to lose big from theft

- Shoplifting estimated to hit 5-year high
- Experts expect recession to take toll on razor blades, filet mignon {page 08}

Everything she wants from you

Our gift guide spotlights items on your leading lady's wishlist {pages 19-22}

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Occupiers will appeal decision

Judge lifts order that barred city from evicting camp ◗ Menino asks that campers to go voluntarily ◗ Protesters start planning for post-eviction

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ How much longer will the Occupiers' tent city be intact?

In the wake of a court ruling handed down yesterday repealing a restraining order that kept city officials from kicking out Occupy Boston campers, protesters stood united, gathering in the pouring rain at a muddy Dewey Square.

Lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union representing the group said they would appeal the decision and seek an extension to the restraining order today.

Despite the call for appeal, city officials said they are pleased with the court decision to allow them to remove campers at their discretion.

"We applaud the judge for clearly recognizing the city's authority," said Mayor Thomas Menino in a statement. "The city will act appropriately to fulfill our duty to preserve the public's peace and safety."

Menino strongly encouraged campers to voluntarily uproot their encampment and refrain from occupying the land.

"I'm a little less optimistic right now, but I'll think we will be alright," said camper David Lehnert. "I have no idea what's coming, though."

Police spokeswoman Elaine Driscoll said there are no immediate plans to clear the camp, but said Commissioner Ed Davis believes "it's important for the city to have the discretion to determine how to proceed on this matter."

The court decision made by Suffolk Superior Court Judge Frances McIntyre not only repealed the camp's current restraining order, it also denied a preliminary injunction to protect them from losing Deweyville in the future.

"[It was] denied because, while Occupy Boston protesters may be exercising their expressive rights during their protest, they have no privilege under the First Amendment to seize and hold the land on which they sit," McIntyre said in a statement.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

Quoted

"Just because the court ruled today that the city can shut down the encampment at Dewey Square does not mean that it should."

CAROL ROSE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ACLU OF MASSACHUSETTS

Judge's ruling

- Defined "occupation" as seizing and holding land
- Called act of occupation hostile and an assertion of possession
- Act of occupation as a matter of law, is not speech and is not immune from criminal prosecution

Quoted

"The people who wrote the law probably never played sports. It's a human reaction to react when you're returning a touchdown. They want to take the human factor out of it? Give me a break."

-MAYOR THOMAS MENINO, SPEAKING ABOUT THE MIAA RULE OF EXCESSIVE CELEBRATION THAT COST CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL A CHAMPIONSHIP. MENINO IS PLANNING A CELEBRATION LUNCH FOR THE TEAM FOR THEIR EFFORT.

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DO YOU THINK THE COURT WAS RIGHT?

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Back Bay fire caused by stove

BOSTON. An unattended stove was the cause of Tuesday night's fire in the Back Bay that caused $250,000 in damage.

Fire officials said yesterday that the two-alarm fire at 197 Marlborough St. was started by the stove in a basement apartment.

The fire broke out about 7:20 p.m. and spread up the four-story building.

Firefighters had to rescue two residents by taking them down ladders.

A third-floor resident and a firefighter were taken to a hospital for smoke inhalation. METRO

Arrest in road rage incident

QUINCY. A 48-year-old Weymouth man was arrested for allegedly hitting an 85-year-old man during a case of apparent road rage.

William Hines was charged with assault and battery for the incident that took place Tuesday in the parking lot of the Quincy Wal-Mart, according to the Patriot Ledger.

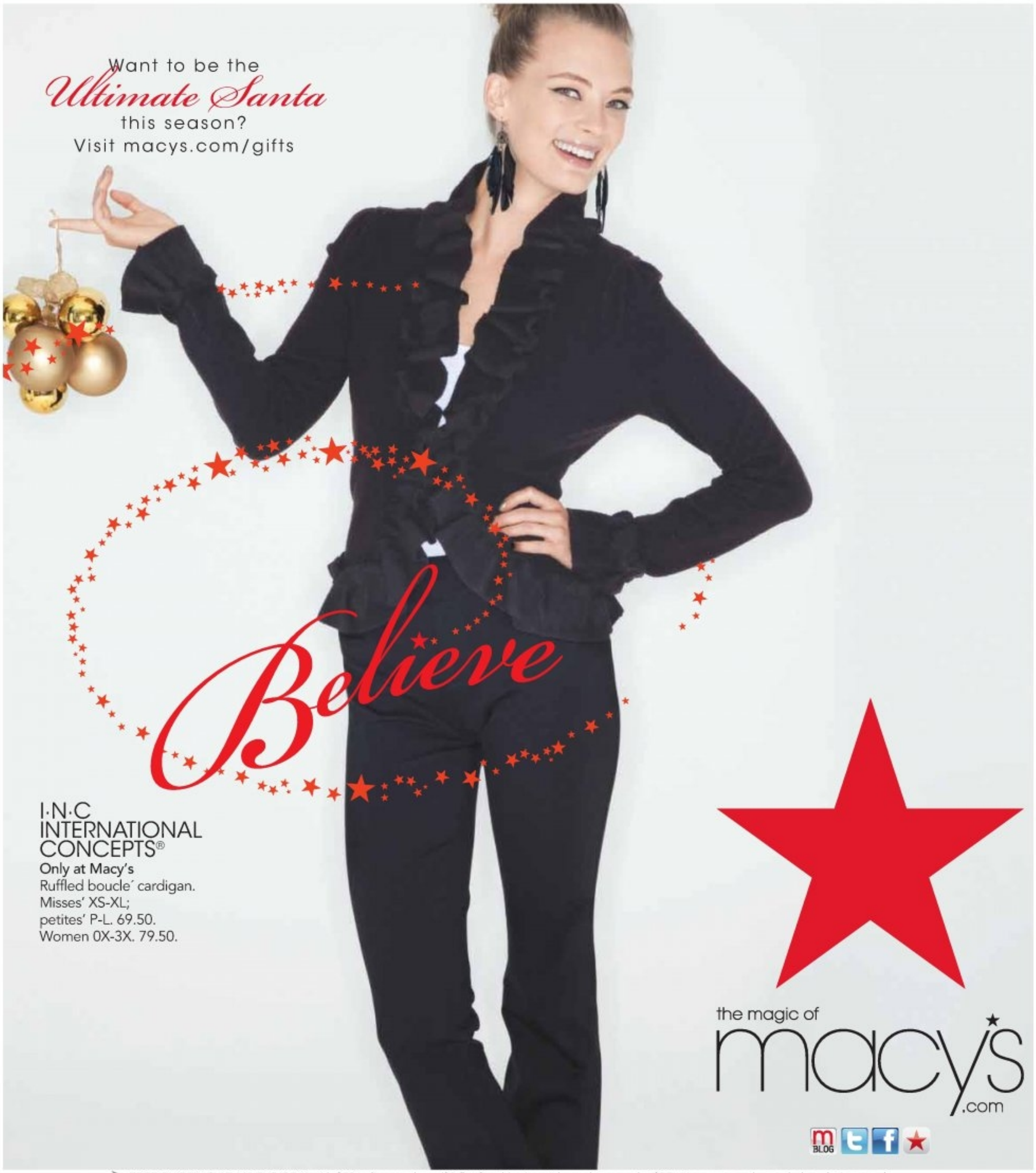
Witnesses told police Hines and the elderly man were arguing in the parking lot and Hines hit the victim in the face. METRO

Charged for feeding the ducks

LYNN. An 80-year-old Lynn woman has been charged with trespassing and violating a city ordinance for feeding ducks.

Claire Butcher allegedly violated the orders when she fed ducks bread at a Lynn pond, according to the Lynn Daily Item.

Butcher had agreed to not feed the ducks and agreed to a no trespass order in 2009. METRO



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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

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Employee's tweet sparks controversial response from company's CEO

- CEO's comment raised questions about whether she was fired online
- Boloco employee responded to comment on Twitter that her job 'sucks'

A Boloco employee's venting online about her job caught the attention of the company's CEO who snapped back at the disgruntled worker.

The employee, who is named Marielys C., according to her Twitter profile, posted a negative comment about her job Tuesday night.

The burrito chain's CEO, John Pepper, tweeted a short response that implied that Marielys had been terminated.

When reached through e-mail yesterday, Pepper said Marielys was not fired and will not be reprimanded for her comment. He said he wrote her an apology, but has not heard back.

The exchange:

▶ **"@Ya_Feinin lol my job sucks too! I work at this place called boloco on Newbury street"**
AllHailMaryJane

▶ **"Sorry. Not anymore."**
bolocoCEO

"I just believe in getting the big issues on the table in person, on the phone, and on the Internet. I wish she had shared her frustrations in person. She didn't. I wish I had shared my comments without including her twitter handle, and possibly refrained entirely. But I did and now there will be consequences," Pepper said.

Pepper said that what went through his mind when he was first alerted to the worker's tweet was "a lot harsher" than what he typed and he reacted.

"I do think it's OK to blow steam off on Twitter. But we all have to know there are consequences. Perhaps my own tweet was a form of blowing off steam, too. And look at the consequences," Pepper said.

Other Twitter users commented at Pepper and asked him if he was serious about his comment and that reprimanding the employee online wasn't fair.

Efforts to contact the employee were unsuccessful.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

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Did you thank your driver today?

Road rage: T driver assaults on the rise

New ad campaign thanks riders for being nice to their drivers ◐ DNA from spitters will be used to prosecute them ◐ Some get rude over fare collection

Attacks on T drivers, such as spitting in their faces, has become a "disturbing trend" according to MBTA officials. And now the transit agency is fighting back.

The T's acting general manager, Jon Davis, announced yesterday that new advertisements would be posted on trains and buses to improve relationships between riders and drivers.

Davis said 28 percent of reported assaults on drivers involved spitting.

He said more than half the time, riders assault bus drivers (rather than train operators). Often, it's regarding fare collection.

To stop the trend, the T will be submitting DNA evidence to crime labs, via spit, "to help identify the offender and prosecute these types of incidents," he said.

That's in addition to the new ads. Davis said the message of the campaign is twofold.

"We want the offenders to know that we take this crime seriously, and we will do what it takes to prosecute them. And we want our employees to know that we value their service," he said.

While the T has prosecuted many riders accused of assaulting employees, Davis said safety officials are working with transit agencies in other states to develop policies and determine actions to ensure operator safety.

By the numbers

19
Number of assault incidents over last year

41%
Percentage of incidents regarding fare collection

54%
Percentage that occurred on bus drivers

STEVE ANNEAR
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Library employee charged with theft

SAUGUS. A former library employee was arrested yesterday for allegedly embezzling more than $800,000 in donations made to the library.

Linda Duffy, 65, was indicted by a federal grand jury for mail fraud, money laundering and identity theft.

Officials allege Duffy deposited donations into a decoy account in the library's name and then wrote herself checks that she deposited in her own account.

The 17-page indictment alleged that Duffy used the money to pay for flowers, jewelry, furniture, hotels and her mortgage.

Duffy resigned in July after 11 years. ● METRO/MN

Two killed in separate shootings

BOSTON. Two people were fatally shot in separate incidents Tuesday night.

The first incident occurred about 7:30 p.m. when a man in his 50s was found shot inside 7 Samoset St.

The second shooting occurred about an hour later outside 60 Dearborn St., where police found a man in his 20s shot. ● METRO

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POLKA DOT

▶ Stealing candy for the kiddies this year? Think outside the bar.

This year's hottest gifts — to shoplift

- Retailers expecting big losses to thieves this year
- Some unexpected targets: Steaks and razor blades

Shoplifting is not one of the ways we recommend to save money. But this year, one in every 11 shoppers will shoplift when opportunity strikes.

According to AdWeek, retailers expect to lose around $119 billion in pilfered goods this holiday season — which is not only a five-year high, but also up 6 percent from 2010.

Experts say that the economic climate's pallor of desperation will lead to need-based shoplifting. Indeed, only 3 percent of shoplifters are "professionals" who will make a buck, while 70 percent of them are amateurs who didn't plan their crime.

It seems like a given that iPhones are on top of this year's wish list of complimentary products, but AdWeek brings our attention to equally popular (but much more surprising!) victims of holiday theft.

Some runners-up to the top-three list (left): filet mignon, designer clothing and sneakers from brands such as Tommy Hilfiger and Nike.

Top three thefts

1. **Axe body sprays** and washes are one of the most shoplifted products year-round.
2. **Replacement razor blades,** especially for more expensive tools such as the Gillette Mach 4, can cost up to $23.
3. **Let's Rock Elmo,** the newest animatronic noise-generator, is one of Toys R Us's hottest toys of the season. It's going for anywhere from $40 to $99.

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AT&T rated lowest again

NEW YORK. The latest Consumer Reports customer satisfaction survey found that AT&T is the least-loved telecom firm for the second year running. According to Paul Reynolds, electronics editor for Consumer Reports: "Our survey indicates that subscribers to prepaid and smaller standard-service providers are happiest overall with their cellphone service." METRO/BS

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MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR
2011

Steve Jobs is miles ahead in nominations as Metro's Man of the Year. Meanwhile, Gabby Giffords and TV reporter Lara Logan received further backing yesterday. Nominations close at 5 p.m. on Dec. 9. E-mail mwoty@metro.us.

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Blago gets 14 years for corruption

Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich yesterday was sentenced to 14 years in federal prison for political corruption including attempting to sell the U.S. Senate seat vacated by then president-elect Barack Obama.

Blagojevich, who turns 55 Saturday, must serve at least 85 percent of the sentence — or about 12 years.

He was convicted of seeking jobs and campaign contributions in exchange for state government action. Blagojevich, a Democrat who was ousted from office in 2009, had asked U.S. District Judge James B. Zagel for mercy, saying he was "unbelievably sorry."

Zagel said before sentencing that he accepted Blagojevich's apology, but "it comes too late." Zagel disputed the defense theory that Blagojevich was misled by his staff.

"The governor was not marched along the criminal path by his staff," Zagel said. "He marched them — and ruined a few of their careers." REUTERS

In action

He was also convicted of attempting to shake down the head of a children's hospital to get campaign cash for authorizing an increase in doctor reimbursement fees.

PAUL J. RICHARDS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Anniversary. 70 years

Honoring Pearl Harbor

U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta stands in the rain and salutes after a commemorative wreath was placed at the U.S. Navy Memorial statue in Washington yesterday on the 70th anniversary of the 1941 Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, that killed more than 2,400 U.S. servicemen.

News in brief

New charges for Sandusky

HARRISBURG, PA. Former Penn State football coach Jerry Sandusky, already charged with 40 counts of abusing eight boys over 15 years, was arrested at his home on Wednesday and charged with 12 new counts of sexual abuse, Pennsylvania Attorney General Linda Kelly said.

The new charges stem from allegations by two men, identified as Victim 9 and Victim 10, who testified before a grand jury about alleged abuse by Sandusky when they were children, Kelly said in a statement. REUTERS

No charges for ex-'Cuse coach

SYRACUSE, NY. Former Syracuse University basketball coach Bernie Fine cannot be charged under New York state law for allegedly fondling two ball boys even though investigators believe the accusations to be true, District Attorney William Fitzpatrick said yesterday.

Fine cannot be charged because the statute of limitations in New York state has run out, Fitzpatrick said. It requires victims to come forward within five years of their 18th birthday. REUTERS

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ROMEO GACAD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rows of concrete blast walls dominate the joint U.S.-Afghan combat outpost of the 2-87 Infantry Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team located in Makuan's village "Green Zone" Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan, heartland of the Taliban.

'Beast of Kandahar' drone must have malfunctioned: US

The unmanned U.S. drone Iran said on Sunday it had captured was programmed to automatically return to base even if its data link was lost, one key reason that U.S. officials say the drone likely malfunctioned and was not downed by Iranian electronic warfare.

U.S. officials have been tight-lipped about Iranian claims that its military downed an RQ-170 unmanned spy plane, a radar-evading, wedge-shaped aircraft dubbed "the Beast of Kandahar" after its initial sighting in southern Afghanistan.

Bin Laden cred

The RQ-170 Sentinel has a full-motion video sensor that was used this year by U.S. intelligence to monitor al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan ahead of the raid that killed him.

The U.S.-led NATO mission in Afghanistan said the Iranians might be referring to an unarmed reconnaissance aircraft that disappeared on a flight in western Afghanistan late last week. But they declined to say what type of drone was involved.

A U.S. government source said the plane was on a CIA mission. REUTERS

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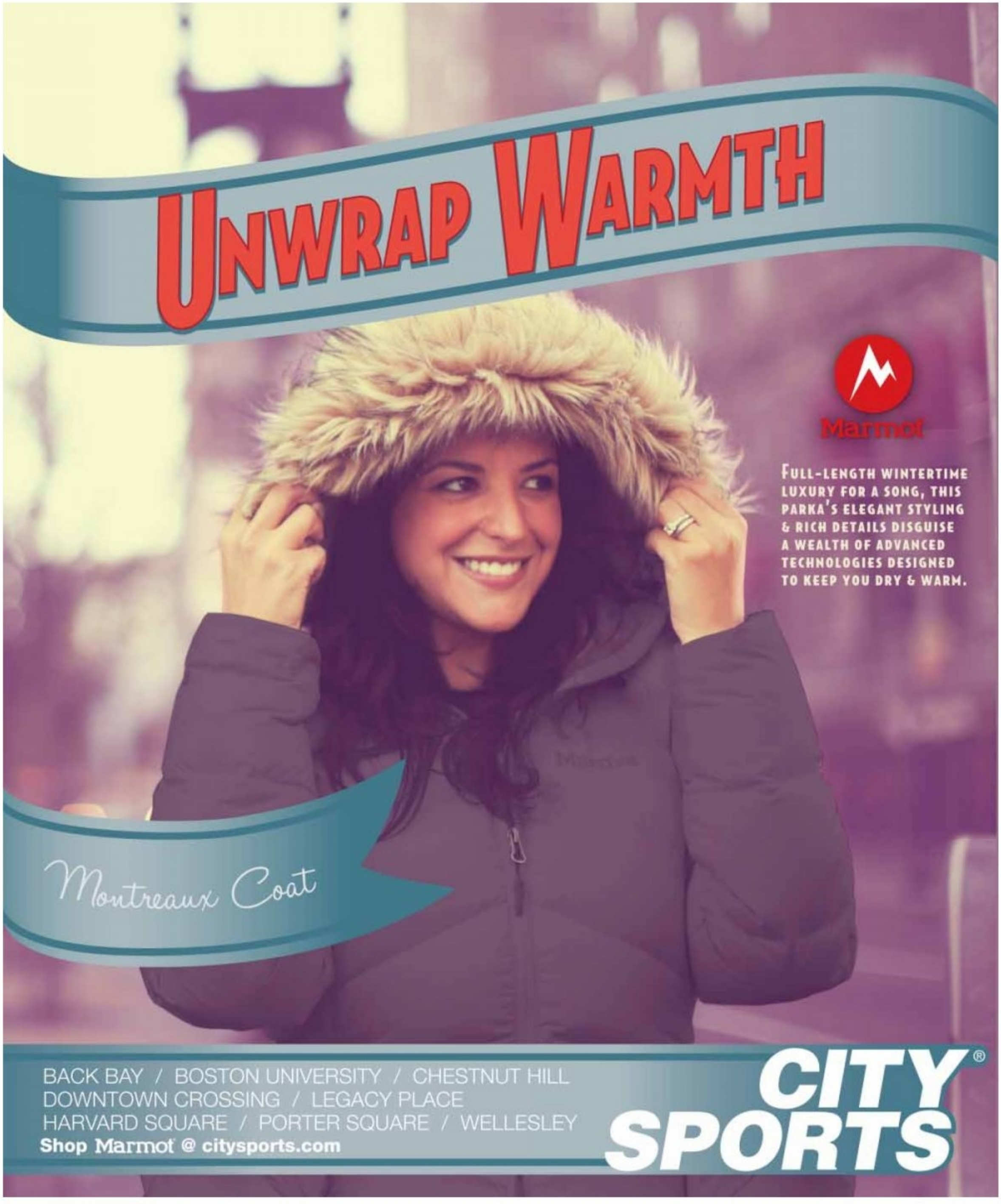
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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Whitney Cummings has strict holiday standards, Eddie Izzard is getting his exercise, Kathy Griffin is angling for some time with Justin Bieber and Thomas Lennon is rethinking the classics.

▶ **@Whitney Cummings:** The more tape you use to wrap a present the crazier you are

▶ **@eddieizzard:** I've now run barefoot for 6 days in a row. Feet are complaining and getting stronger at the same time

▶ **@kathygriffin:** Since I'm nominated 4 a GRAMMY 4 my comedy album "50 & NOT pregnant" don't u think my GRAMMY date should b @JustinBieber??

▶ **@thomaslennon:** "she's got legs and knows how to use them" is not that great of a compliment.

Today in awkward divorce stories

▶ Moore, Kutcher

All of those A-list celebs going through divorces? Things are getting awwwkward!

First up in cringeworthy separation stories: While **Demi Moore** was having dinner with a friend at a private club in West Hollywood recently, she couldn't help noticing soon-to-be ex-husband **Ashton Kutcher** dining nearby. "She approached his table," a source tells Us Weekly. "He gave her a hug, and they spoke for a few minutes." The source describes the couple's chat as "polite" but "very awkward."

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DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

At least it wasn't as bad as what went down recently with **Jennifer Lopez** and her soon-to-be-ex-husband **Marc Anthony**. Anthony apparently refused to shoot his Latin reality TV show "Q'Viva" with Lopez because of her new relationship with 24-year-old backup dancer **Casper Smart**. A source told Star magazine: "Marc and J.Lo had a tense conference call when she was in Morocco. Inevitably, their discussion boiled down to her new boyfriend (Smart) and Marc made the decision not to work with Jennifer last week as a result."

Call me crazy, but maybe everything can be described as "tense" when you work with someone with whom you are going through a contentious divorce.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ If you remember when the Beastie Boys dressed like this, you are probably old.

Give it away now

The announcement of the Rock and Roll of Fame's class of 2012 is a wake-up call of sorts for Generation X. The **Beastie Boys**, **Guns N' Roses** and **Red Hot Chili Peppers** all were fresh-faced in the '80s, became superstars in the '90s and are now being crowned with legendary status — and probably making a lot of people reading this right now feel very old. Those bands are among a group of performers that also include **Laura Nyro**, **Donovan** and **The Small Faces**. The induction ceremony will take place in Cleveland in April.

Talking points

Baldwin doesn't fly the friendly skies

▶ Baldwin

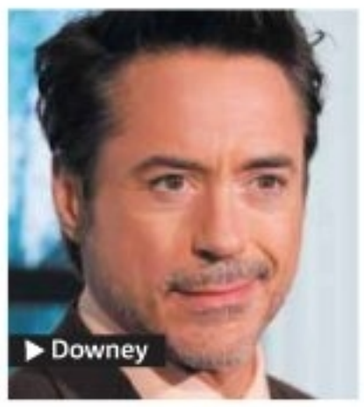
Alec Baldwin claims he was kicked off an American Airlines flight for playing the Scrabble-like game Words with Friends on his phone. "Flight attendant on American reamed me out [for] playing [Words with Friends] while we sat at the gate, not moving," the actor posted to Twitter. Baldwin was eventually removed from the plane and forced to take another flight. But some sources say it wasn't as simple as all that. Other passengers claim Baldwin was also talking on the phone, and he reportedly became "violent and aggressive" toward the airline staff, according to Hollyscoop.

Lohan to talk to Ellen

▶ Lohan

Lindsay Lohan is looking to unveil her Playboy spread on daytime television, as she's chosen **Ellen DeGeneres'** show for her only magazine-related interview, according to Hollyscoop. "Lindsay has agreed to do one media interview and has chosen Ellen," a spokesman for the magazine says.

Downey can't shut his trap



▶ Downey

Robert Downey Jr. and his wife, **Susan Downey**, are going to be welcoming a son early next year. "We're having a boy," the star tells Jay Leno during an interview. But that's about all he's allowed to say, he admits: "I am not permitted to discuss it. I keep dropping the ball everywhere," he explains. "[Susan] says, 'Don't tell your cousins,' and then I tell them." Downey adds that he doesn't see another go at fatherhood doing anything to cool the hot streak his career's been on. "Life is good. Maybe I ought to think about slowing down a little. But I can't see that happening in the short term," he says.

myentertainment

Why should women have all the fun in the spotlight?

1. Wiz Khalifa and Snoop Dogg performed at the Electric Factory in Philadelphia on Tuesday.

2. Matt Damon greeted his fans as he left the "Late Show With David Letterman" at the Ed Sullivan Theater in New York City on Tuesday.

3. Will Smith attended the 2011 Holiday in the Hangar to benefit the Garden of Dreams Foundation at Delta Terminal 2 at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City on Tuesday.

4. Yankees veteran Derek Jeter attended the launch of the Limited Edition Movado BOLD Watch at the Bloomingdale's in New York City on Tuesday.

5. "True Blood" star Ryan Kwanten (nice glasses!) attended the G-Star Los Angeles Denim Store Opening at the G-Star Rodeo Drive Store in Beverly Hills on Tuesday.

6. Colin Firth attended the premiere of "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" at the Arclight Cinerama Dome in Hollywood, Calif., on Tuesday. The film, which was nominated for a Golden Lion at this year's Venice Film Festival, is due this Friday.

1: JEFF FUSCO/GETTY IMAGES
2: DONNA WARD/GETTY IMAGES
3: DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES
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myentertainment

'That Ain't Right'

- Lyric Stage misses the mark with 'Ain't Misbehavin''
- This production of the classic musical is misdirected

If you go

'Ain't Misbehavin''
Through Dec. 17
Lyric Stage
140 Clarendon St., Boston
$25-$60, 617-585-5678
www.lyricstage.com

"Ain't Misbehavin'" is the type of musical you never want to end. The seedy, seductive atmosphere of an uptown speakeasy, a hint of danger and of course the music of Fats Waller all leave you wanting more.

Upon entering the Lyric Stage, you feel like you've just landed uptown for a night of sinful delight. Unfortunately, the production never measures up to the potential its set promises.

The music, which at times feels like it's being played at warp speed, sorely lacks the almost indescribable "oomph" that it needs. The keys feel wrong and the talented troupe seems misdirected. The genuine joy of classics like "Honeysuckle Rose" and "The Joint Is Jumpin'" is nonexistent, though they do fare better in Act II with "That Ain't Right" and "Mean to Me."

MARK S. HOWARD

▶ This "Ain't Misbehavin'" could be called "Is Misdirected."

Much of what's wrong here lies directly in the hands of director Josie Bray. Her simplistic choreography is sloppily executed, the staging is peculiar and there's no hint of a story. There is some toppled furniture that is removed and returns near the end ... whatever that means!

There was a lot of discussion in the audience at this particular performance of Mallory Frer's costumes. Opinions ranged from wondering if they're "supposed to look this cheap" to "they look like they were made in a high school home ec class." When talk of hanging threads, bad hems and puckered seams dominate the conversation, you've seen an "Ain't Misbehavin'" that misses its mark.

NICK DUSSAULT
nick.dussault@metro.us

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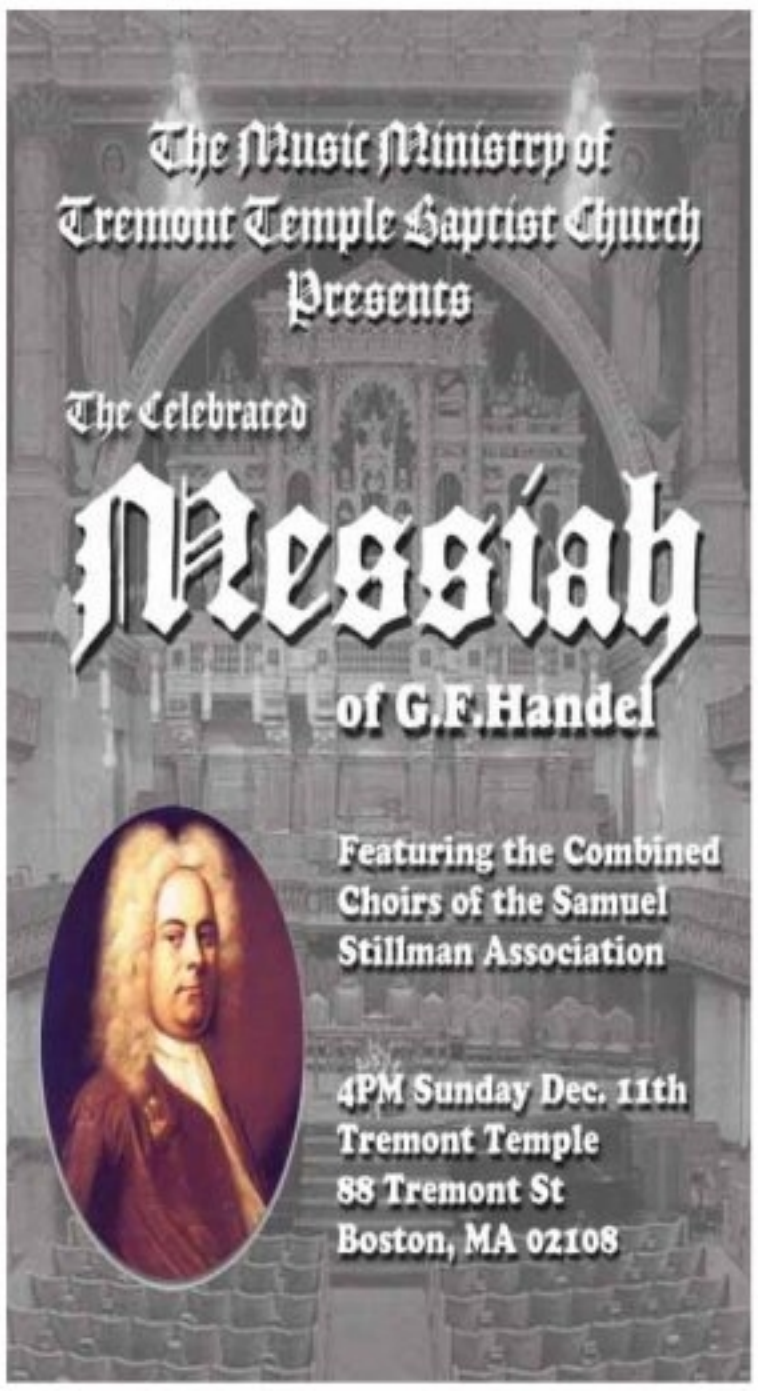

Men 65 and Older Needed for a Research Study

If you are a man age 65 or older, you may be eligible to participate in a research study to evaluate the actions of testosterone gel on walking, sexual function, energy, memory and low red blood cell count.

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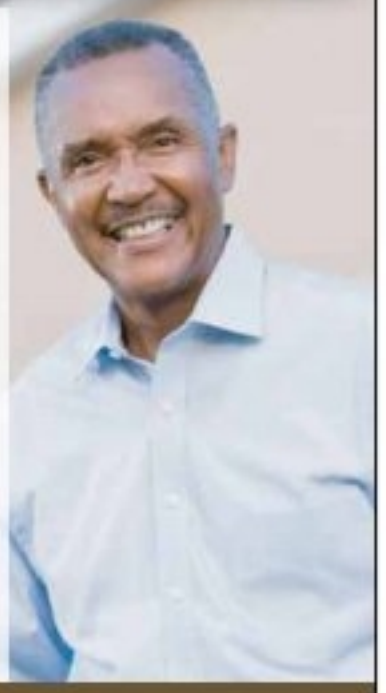

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Siggy Flicker wants to help you find love

▶ Siggy Flicker's "Why Am I Still Single?!" airs Sundays at 11 p.m. on VH1.

- Looking for a date to bring to all those holiday parties this year?
- Matchmaker Siggy Flicker of VH1's 'Why Am I Still Single?!' has advice

Siggy Flicker knows there's another popular TV matchmaker out there, but she'll be the first to tell you that that's where their similarities end.

"I am the opposite of the Millionaire Matchmaker," Flicker, the star of VH1's "Why Am I Still Single?!" says. "She annoys the hell out of me. First off, I was married to a millionaire. I left all that behind [when I] got divorced in search of chemistry and love. And I found it with a car salesman. I don't believe in [excluding love] to just the Millionaire's Club. There's nothing more than important than chemistry, and if you're gonna limit yourself on who you love by judging the size of his wallet, you're gonna end up single for a very long time — which is why the Millionaire Matchmaker is still single."

We got Flicker's top tips for meeting the man or woman of your dreams.

Be open to love

"If you watch somebody walking out of an office building today, they're usually on their iPod, on their cell phone, on their BlackBerry — I say first of all, look up. There is no specific place to meet somebody. Stand tall and open up your eyes to your surroundings. It's all about the energy you're giving off."

Break your routine

"Go out at least twice a week. It should be more important than your full time job. What's more important, money or love? I say love. So twice a week, go out. It doesn't have to be to a bar — a bar is my least [recommended choice]. Get out of the bubble."

Let go of unrealistic expectations

"Nobody's ever come to me and said, 'Siggy, can you set me up with a fat slob who sits on the couch and doesn't work?'" says Flicker. "We all want the same thing, but when you limit yourself to what the physicality of somebody is, you're shutting so many doors. I went on date after date until I found the lid to my pot, which turned out to be a bald car salesman who I'm in love with."

Choose your wingmen wisely

▶ "If you're single, do not go out with other singles. Why [allow for] competition? Go out with your friends who are married or in healthy, committed relationships. Take somebody who's on your side, who's gonna help you seal the deal."

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Reader love notes

Send us your love notes

E-mail **lovenotes@metro.us** with your special message and we'll print it in next Thursday's dating section. Please keep your note to 20 characters or fewer.

- *Maria without you I am nothing ur my everything - Nate*
- ***McFein, you're my everything! Always loving you, Mrs. Gibbons***
- *Little Foot, thinking about you keeps me from going insane during my Green Line morning commute. - Big Foot*
- ***Volts you spark me!***
- *you are my love dream Gordino I LOVE YOU - Kerry*
- ***I love you more than anything in this world Jessica - Ross C***
- *Alan please cop on, I love u! L*
- ***U'VE GOT MY HEART MUHAMMAD J 143 Aisha!***
- *am lost without you - Melo G Lewinsky*
- **Hi ET, I'm hungry 4U - JS**
- *Soyez à moi pour toujours, ohiboka Habibi! to AFS from Imi*
- ***Kissed so many frogs to find my Prince Julian - xxx Mary***
- *V you're my 1 and only, Love Sha*
- ***Je t'aime beaucoup beaucoup, mon petit renard.***
- *Bobby, ur my Googlie Bear! I love you more than you know ... xoxo ... Jaxi*

myletters&games

Letters

letters@metro.us

Pearl Harbor before swine

I read your paper every morning on my commute. I find it quick and easy to read, but I must say that I am a bit upset that there was not one mention of Pearl Harbor on the anniversary of one of the most horrifying days in our country's history. Yet there is a half-page article on JWoww's perfume. Sad if this is what our country has come to!

DAVID M. DE SANTO, VIA E-MAIL

Shame on Metro for not mentioning one single word in today's print and online edition about the 70th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It seems that people like Alec Baldwin, Lady Gaga and Jessica Simpson are viewed by your staff as being more important than the men and women of our armed forces.

GEORGE H. CLOSS, VIA E-MAIL

Min. wage is unsustainable

RE: "UNEMPLOYED? HERE'S WHY ... ": Mr. Haugen claims the current minimum wage, a grand $7.25 per hour, "has simply made it too expensive for employers to hire people." I have to presume this is satire, as that is the single most ridiculous thing I've read outside of the daily comic strips.

JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL

You know all these people talking about minimum wage are not being paid minimum wage! Before you can talk that talk, you got to walk that walk, which I know — and you know — you can't. You wouldn't be able to pay rent and buy food and clothes getting paid like that. People like to be paid according to the middle class way of living and you can't do that on minimum wage!

WILLIAM DIXON, VIA E-MAIL

We do not all love Sir Lucas

RE: "WE ARE ALL MADE OF SAME STUFF": However, some of us think the first Star Wars trilogy is given way too much credit.

NICK CANTON, VIA E-MAIL

Super solution to nation's debt

Too bad the government doesn't refinance their debt. The interest per year right now on $15 trillion-plus is $452 billion. Why not refinance with the Federal Reserve at .01 percent, the same rate the Federal Reserve is giving its best customers the banks? That's a savings of $450 billion per year — $4.5 trillion over 10 years. Gee why didn't the super committee think of that one? DAVID SNIECKUS, NEWTON

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Tried and true procedures may not be the best ones to follow any longer. If you hear about something better, don't hesitate to discard old ideas in favor of new thinking.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You're likely to be more effective later in the day, after you've had time to study an important matter, than you will be in the early hours.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** If your early efforts fail to bring you the success you're seeking, don't be a quitter — try, try again. Perseverance can really pay off.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** There is a good chance that the advice you get from your mate might be vastly superior to any counsel you receive from outsiders, even from those who have impressive credentials.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Agreeing to do something for another merely to get that person to do something for you in return could be an exercise in futility.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** The only consideration you should have is to make sure you're moving in a positive direction. Even small gains can be good, as long as they get you closer to your goal.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Be sure you have all the facts and figures at hand before defending an unfamiliar position. If you don't readily have them at your disposal, wait until you do to take action.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** There is nothing wrong with curiosity, because it does have its place when employed constructively. However, don't misuse it by prying onto somebody else's private affairs.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Instead of paying for needed services or advice, first try to figure things out for yourself. If you probe a little, you may find that you already have the answers at your disposal.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Adhere to proven procedures and methods in all work-related matters. Experimenting with unproven or untried procedures could be a career hazard.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Don't hesitate to warn a friend about someone who does not have his or her best interests at heart, even if the adversary is likely to hear about it.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** If you've made a commitment you now regret, try to rectify it immediately instead of disappointing the other party at the time when you're expected to honor your pledge.

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20 Dough raiser
22 Pouched animals
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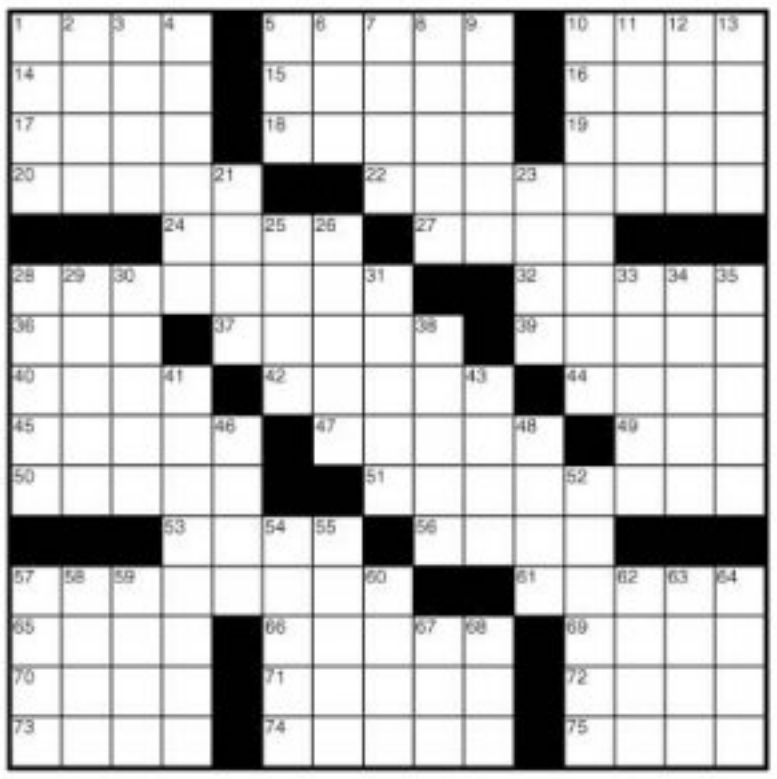
37 One of a strand
39 Jeered at
40 Stadium level
42 Fish basket
44 Ointment of old
45 Debussy's "__ de Lune"
47 Anchor holster
49 Bunion site
50 And so
51 Squander
53 Env. stuffer
56 H.H. Munro
57 Conflict
61 Bathroom item
65 Mystique
66 Diving bird
69 Pinewood feature
70 Ms. Dinesen
71 Betel nut palm
72 Oregon, to Yves
73 __ majeste
74 Prize cup of golf
75 Fey or Turner

Down
1 Lacey on "Cagney & Lacey"
2 Huron neighbor
3 Non-soap opera
4 Bahamas' capital
5 Country addr.
6 Mineral deposit
7 The two together
8 Best possible
9 __ Jean Baker
10 Riboflavin, for one (2 wds.)
11 Great review
12 Internet fan
13 D'Urberville girl
21 Pilgrimage
23 Urban woe
25 He played Obi-Wan
26 Five o'clock shadow
28 Cookie quantity
29 Napoleon's fate
30 Harvest
31 Sleep phenomenon
33 Diminish
34 Great blue __
35 Attached
38 Work clothes
41 Low-cal snack (2 wds.)
43 Sax-playing Simpson
46 Housing fee
48 Reproving clucks
52 Kind of fence
54 Tobacco product
55 Queen's truck
57 Quit working
58 Clever ploy
59 S&L offerings
60 Requirement
62 Debate side
63 Give credit
64 Sundance Kid's girl
67 Prior to yr. 1
68 Teacup handle



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

C	L	I	N	K	■	J	I	V	E	D	■	J	A	B
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C	P	A	■	S	H	A	M	U	■	S	U	E	D	E
A	P	R	■	T	O	M	E	S	■	E	A	V	E	S
R	A	M	■	S	C	E	N	E	■	T	W	E	R	P

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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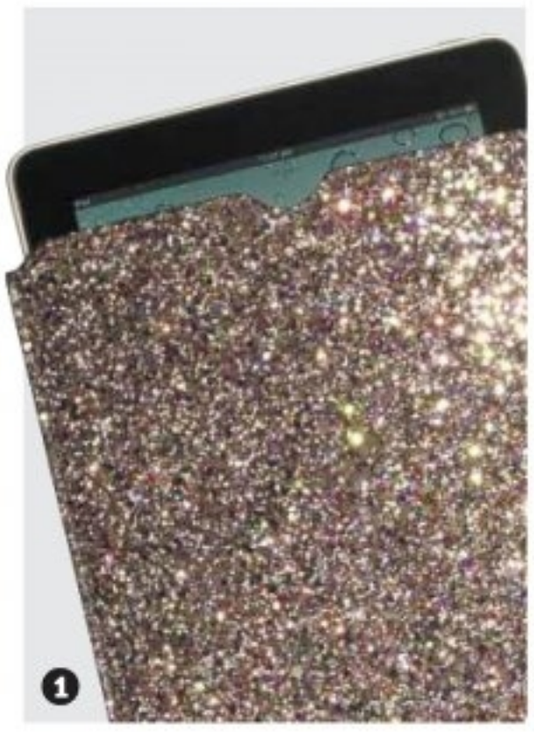
gift guide

Gifts for her

All she wants for Christmas is you (and maybe these, too)

These picks will impress your opinionated mother, artsy girlfriend, fashion-obsessed bestie and cooler-than-thou little sis

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us



3. This is party season, after all. BabyPhat Crop Sequin Jacket, $70, www.babyphat.com

1. It matches her shoes. **Jimmy Choo Sequin iPad Case, $495,** www.saks.com

2. Edgy meets classy with these studded rings in gold, oxidized silver and gunmetal. **TomTom Jewelry Did I Studder Rings, $125 (for three),** www.tomtomjewelry.com

3. The champagne isn't the only thing making her flush. **Dolce & Gabbana The Ruby Collection in Peach, $55,** www.saks.com

4. It's the season for shimmer — even on your nails. **Essie Luxeffects Nail Color, $8, salons nationwide**

5. You can't pull off a meat dress, but these you can definitely do. **Gaga's Workshop Limited Edition Nail Tips by Kiss, $45,** www.gagasworkshop.com

7. They had us at martini. The glowing effect of this gold and silver powder is just a bonus. **Bobbi Brown Party Shimmer Brick, $40,** www.bobbibrowncosmetics.com

Read more on page 20

Classy bling

Dress up a black dress or that boring gray sweatshirt. **Lia Sophia Diverge necklace, $78,** www.liasophia.com

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gift guide

1. Bring on the cheese platter! **Laguiole Cheese Knife Set, $32, www.anthropologie.com**

2. Handmade in Portland, Ore., this large, sturdy and handsome utilitarian tote is perfect for regular grocery runs or a weekend getaway. **Foldover Tote, $138, www.etsy.com/shop/zannaprintedtextiles**

3. An updated edition of the Italian cooking bible. **The Silver Spoon, $50, www.phaidon.com**

5. Play a part in her new healthy lifestyle by sending a six-pack of fresh-pressed juices. **Healing Cooler, $60, www.healingcooler.com**

6. Red lips: a must this season. **Burberry Lip Glow in Ruby No. 16, $24, www.saks.com**

7. Your bookish girlfriend will love these notebooks that borrow iconic covers from classics such as "Pride and Prejudice" and "The Great Gatsby." **Notebook, $8-$16, www.outofprintclothing.com**

8. She can serve Jell-O in these, and people would still be impressed. **C. Wonder Ikat Bowl, $8, www.cwonder.com**

9. She can store jewelry in this keepsake wooden box way after the gorgeous glosses are done. **Nars Kudoki Kabuki Mini Lip Coffret, $125, www.narscosmetics.com**

10. She'll rush home to throw on these comfy, cute shearling-lined slippers. **Marc by Marc Jacobs Mouse Slippers, $195, www.bloomingdales.com**

11. This will work whether she's been naughty or nice. **Free People Tank Bra, $58, Briefs, $38, www.freepeople.com**

12. These chocolates might disappear in two minutes, but she can keep goodies fresher for longer in this pretty tin. **Max Brenner Holiday Time, $34, www.maxbrenner.com**

Read more on page 22

It's like you're cruising around the English countryside — even in Boston traffic — on this sweet retro bike. Pashley Britannia 5 Speed English Bicycle, $1,295, www.adelineadeline.com

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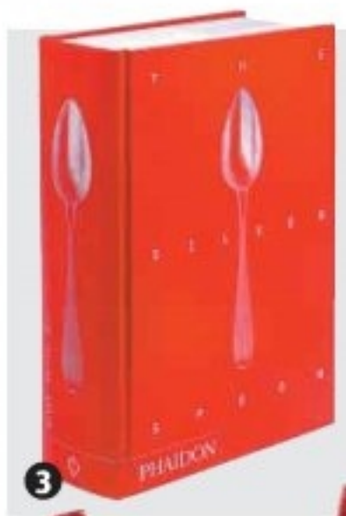

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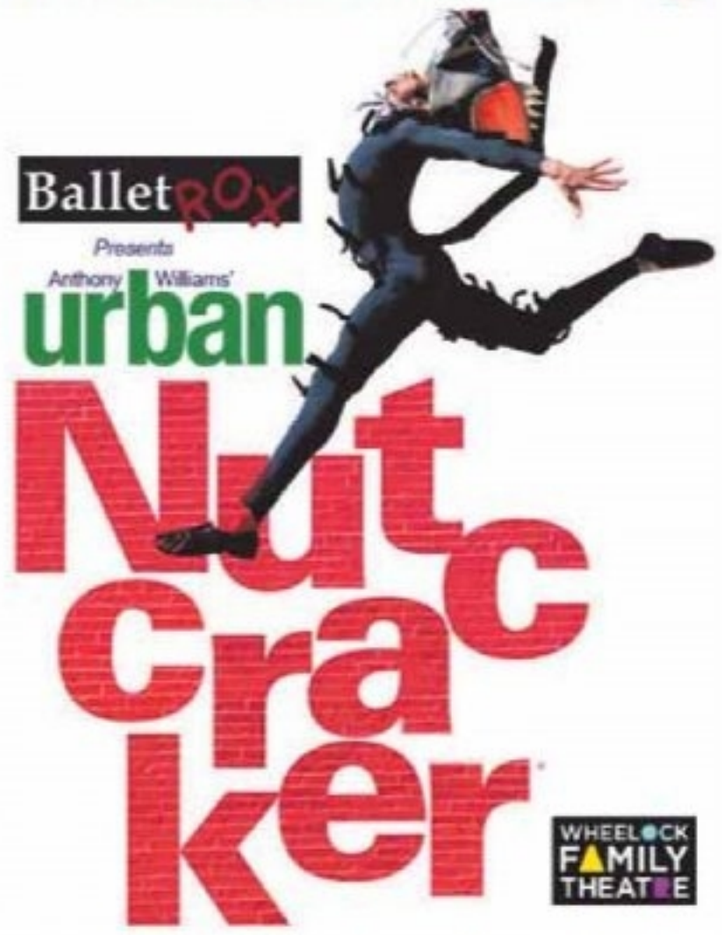
www.urbannutcracker.org



gift guide

1. Good morning, pink toaster! **Delonghi Kmix 2 Slice Toaster, $100,** www.shopdelonghi.com

2. This charming sweater will brighten up the coldest of nights. **Madewell Spotted Snowfall Sweater, $85,** www.madewell.com

3. Old school meets high-tech with iHome's new boombox shell stereo for the iPhone or iPod. **iHome iP4 Portable FM Stereo Boombox, $200,** www.ihomeaudio.com

4. Our new favorite stocking stuffer. **Urban Decay Urban Lash, $15,** www.macys.com

5. Expect to see her in these babies a lot. **Forever 21 Leopard Ankle Boots, $28,** www.forever21.com

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Photo by: Sara Triangulum

Faneuil Hall
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faneuilhallmarketplace.com

food&drink

Rum-pum-pum-yum!

Upstairs on the Square is offering a winter wonderland for your eyes that your stomach will like too

COURTNEY SACCO/METRO
▶ It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Upstairs on the Square.

Nosh On

LINDA LABAN
LINDA.LABAN@METRO.US

Upstairs on the Square seems made for the holidays. Impossibly glittering year-round, the added holiday baubles turn this longstanding Harvard Square restaurant — formerly Upstairs at the Pudding — into a veritable wonderland so visually optimistic, winter gloom disappears.

In both the upstairs Soiree room, with its artful mishmash of pink and lilac teamed with gold and copper leaf, and the gregariously purple and green Monday Club downstairs, glowing fireplaces welcome visitors. Piping hot apple cider or creamy hot chocolate — add rum, whiskey or cognac to either — equal instant comfort.

Winter is when clam chowder comes into its own and chef Steven Brand's is outstanding. It's a thick stew with big chunks of clam and Red Bliss potato, sweetened by its mirepoix base. Brand's amazing endgame: flaky chive crackers and chive oil for contrasting, vibrant color and crisp texture.

Tradition runs through Upstairs' holiday fare, from Thanksgiving's Lancaster Farms naturally-raised turkey decked out with all the trimmings to a Christmas roasted goose — a Dickensian touch perhaps, but one that suits this charming old neighborhood. Brand adds lighter, modern staples like salmon, poaching it with olive oil, cleverly sealing in moisture, and accompanying it with hearty roasted vegetables and a buttery sauce spiked with grainy mustard.

Pasty chef Maria Santos' trio of pies indulgently unites that American holiday trinity of pecan, apple and pumpkin with whipped cream. Her olive oil cake has baked-in, succulent honey-roasted grapes and is served with a contrasting tangy grape sauce poured over a cheesy crème fraiche ice cream. Winter or not, it's another winner at this unique restaurant, where good taste comes with a huge heaping of whimsy.

Upstairs goes nonstop for the holidays

From Hanukkah dinner to holiday tea; caroling nights to New Year's Day brunch — there's even a Vegan Holiday Dinner filled with the amazing possibilities of compassionate dining, with or without fabulous biodynamic wine pairings, Dec. 28, $45/$65.

If you go

Upstairs on the Square
91 Winthrop St.
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www.upstairsonthesquare.com

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Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

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film

10 Reasons why you'll want to get to a movie theater this weekend

Must-see

PHOTO BY ANDREW SCHWARTZ

▶ Jon Bon Jovi and Lea Michele rock out in "New Year's Eve."

1 'New Year's Eve'
The director that brought you the ensemble comedy "Valentine's Day" last year turns his eye toward the night that everyone is inevitably disappointed by. METRO

2 'The Sitter'
Jonah Hill stars as Noah, a college dropout who gets suckered into babysitting three unruly kids. Mayhem ensues when Noah attempts to score some cocaine for his casual hookup, played by Ari Graynor.

3 'Shame'
In artist-turned-director Steve McQueen's second film, Michael Fassbender plays a sex addict who has no trouble seeking out ways to satisfy his lusts — until his sister drops in for an extended stay.

4 'The Muppets'
The Muppets reunite to save the old studio that was home to the show that brought them fame. New pal, super fan and fellow Muppet Walter helps the gang come together to fight the power.

5 'Arthur Christmas'
Just how does Santa get all those presents delivered in one night? With a S.W.A.T. team of elves of course! "Arthur Christmas" answers all the burning questions you've ever had about Claus and the gang.

6 'Hugo'
Martin Scorsese's venture into family film makes sense when you realize it's primarily about real-life filmmaker Georges Melies and his life after creating some of the first films ever made.

7 'The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1"
All eyes are on Mr. and Mrs. Cullen as mortal Bella and vampire Edward tie the knot and, you know, "break a headboard."

8 'Happy Feet Two'
The dancing penguins are back with an impressive list of celebrities giving voice to those little folks who are trying to stave off a threat to their home.

9 'The Descendants'
George Clooney is a Hawaiian land baron coping with his wife's comatose state after a water-skiing accident. As he takes on the parental duties, he also finds out shocking details of his wife's secret life.

10 'Immortals'
The man behind one of the two new Snow White remakes, Tarsem Singh, has a fun romp on his hands with this tale of a man (Henry Cavill) chosen by Zeus to fight against King Hyperion's quest to find a weapon of mass destruction.

TAG
theater & arts guide

THEATER

THE ONLY CHRISTMAS SHOW YOU NEED TO SEE

The Reduced Shakespeare Company returns to take you on an irreverent but heartwarming trip through the holidays and Christmas will never quite be the same.
Merrimack Rep
Nov. 25 - Dec. 18.
For tickets call 978-654-4678
MerrimackRep.org

HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY PRESENTS:

Harry Christophers conducts the 158th annual performances of Handel's masterwork.
Make this Boston holiday tradition yours!
Dec 2 @ 7.30pm | Dec 3 and 4 @ 3pm
Symphony Hall | Tickets from $25
617 266 3605 | handelandhaydn.org

Ballet ROX PRESENTS THE URBAN NUTCRACKER

The holiday dance classic sizzles with a modern edge featuring hip hop, tap and ballet!
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at Wheelock Family Theatre
200 The Riverway, Boston
877-879-2300 or
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actors' shakespeare project
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directed by Steven Barkhimer
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Davis Square Theatre
866.811.4111
actorsshakespeareproject.org

MUSIC

Celebrity Series of Boston
VIJAY IYER TRIO & MIGUEL ZENON QUARTET

Pianist Vijay Iyer & saxophonist Miguel Zenón are two of the most original and brilliant voices in contemporary jazz today. In this double bill, audiences will hear these fearless masters perform the jazz of tomorrow under construction. Fri., 12/9 8pm @ Berklee Perf. Center. Tickets @ celebrityseries.org.

BOSTON GAY MEN'S CHORUS 30th Anniversary
THIS SHINING NIGHT HOLIDAY CONCERT

Hear the chorus' 160 voices in a magical celebration of holiday nights. From traditional carols to favorite TV holiday specials! Sun Dec 11 @ 3pm, Fri Dec 16, Sat Dec 17 & Mon Dec 19 @ 8pm at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall. Tickets $16-$46 www.bgmc.org or 617-542-SING Don't miss it!

LAUD TO THE NATIVITY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Chorus pro Musica
BETSY BURLEIGH MUSIC DIRECTOR

Fri, December 16, 8:00 PM
Old South Church, Copley Sq
Respighi-Lauda per la Natività del Signore- a luminous cantata for chorus & wind ensemble
Soloists: Kathy Linger, Majie Zeller, & Greg Zavracky.
With carols & holiday favorites.
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EVENTS

A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?

Reform Jewish OUTREACH BOSTON
Welcoming Interfaith Couples & Individuals Exploring Judaism

Thursday evenings, January 5, 12 & 19, 2012 at Temple Beth Am in Framingham, Free but pre-registration required, jschwartz@urj.org, 617-928-0012, www.reformjewishoutreachboston.org Explore Reform Judaism's relevance in today's world. Students are invited to learn about Jewish perspectives on topics of spirituality, ethics and community. All are welcome. Questions and lively discussions encouraged. Designed for beginners, Jewish or not. Taught by Reform Rabbis.

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listings

The roundup

THEATER

Puppets at Night: 'The Hoarding Show'
Friday and Saturday
Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline
$13-$15, 617-731-6400
www.puppetshowplace.org
This adult show is about the in-vogue psychological disorder of hoarding, puppeteer Carole D'Agostino, who's worked on "Crank Yankers," "Greg the Bunny" and many other high-profile puppet projects, takes us — via shadow puppets, miniatures and object theater — through three thematic vignettes. The evening also includes "Trash: A Love Story" by local artists Woellert and Clark.

DANCE

Raks Nativity
Sunday, 7:30 p.m.
Cambridge Family YMCA Theatre, 820 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, $10-$15, 888-771-0809
www.raksnativity.bellydancernepenthe.com
The Ahlam Selene Dance Company presents a different spin on the standard Christmas story, illustrating its scenes with Middle Eastern dance and music from locales as far-flung as Egypt and Moorish Spain. The performance benefits Cradles to Crayons, a charity that helps provide needy children 12 and under with basic necessities.

'Urban Nutcracker'
Through Dec. 18
Wheelock Family Theatre
200 The Riverway, Boston
$25-$50, 617-879-2300
www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org
Same old "Nutcracker" giving you the doldrums year after year? BalletRox, along with more than 50 local children, will perform Anthony Williams' interpretation of the quintessential Christmas ballet, which is set in contemporary Boston instead of 19th century Europe, injecting Tchaikovsky's work with some much-needed livening-up via swing, hip-hop and tap, including a little Duke Ellington.

MUSIC

Aine Minogue
Tonight, 6:30
Boston College
2101 Comm. Ave., Brighton
Free, 617-552-6396
www.bc.edu/centers/irish/gaelicroots
The Center for Irish Programs at Boston College presents this Irish harpist-singer, who will perform a set of Christmas and Winter Solstice songs, many sung in Gaelic, in her mystical Celtic style. Her voice and harp are beautiful and haunting, somehow intimately close and echoing from some far off, misty distance at once.

Art

The Big Small World of Red Nose Studio

Through Dec. 15
Main Gallery, Art Institute of Boston, 700 Beacon St., Boston, Free, 617-585-6600
www.aib.edu
This exhibition features 3-D illustration work by artist Chris Sickels, head of Red Nose Studio. We haven't seen much like this outside the world of "A Nightmare Before Christmas." It's surreal and cartoony but vividly detailed — cute, but creepy.

MOVIES

'The Room'
Saturday, 11:59 p.m.
Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St., Brookline
$9, 617-734-2500
www.coolidge.org
This unintentionally hilarious melodrama has become the new "Plan 9 from Outer Space" — a film so poorly executed and psychologically bizarre that it becomes bludgeon satire. Live screenings have the added amusement of rabid "Room" fans shouting their own commentary, throwing plastic spoons at the screen and screaming in horror.

CRAFTS

CraftBoston Holiday 2011
Friday through Sunday
Cyclorama: Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston, $13-$15, 617-266-1810
www.craftboston.com
Ceramics, decorative fiber, furniture, glass, jewelry, leather, metal, mixed media, paper and wood! Any questions? Oh, yeah, more than 90 vendors are selling their unique items!

MATTHEW DINARO

Charity

Santa Speedo Run

Saturday, 1 p.m.
Lir Tavern
903 Boylston St., Boston
$30 registration fee,
617-461-8673
www.ssrunners.org
Some bold souls will take a brief jog in nothing but a Santa hat and Speedo to raise money for the Play Ball Foundation. Since runners must raise at least $400 each, it might not be realistic to register this late — but you should still donate and come watch.

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hot tickets

Wreck the Halls with a decade full of populist punk

Street Dogs celebrate 10 years Boston band also continue their annual yuletide tradition Bassist talks about the spirit of the Occupy movement

It's the most wonderful time of the year. A time to get together with old friends and family, to relive cherished memories and to beat each other up in a sweaty crowd while shouting out lyrics about the brotherhood of labor unions. At least if you're in attendance at one of the shows on the Street Dogs' Wreck the Halls tour. Now in its seventh year, the Boston blue-collar favorites bring their brand of brawny populist punk to town this weekend.

"We're going on our 10th year soon," bass player Johnny Rioux explains. "When we started doing this a lot of us had had to relocate out of New England, so at first it became kind of the way that we celebrated the holidays together and with our families back home in Boston." Over the years the size of that family grew exponentially, making shows up and down the East Coast a necessity.

The size of the band hasn't necessarily affected the way they approach a tour however, Rioux says.

▶ Street Dogs have always been — and always will be — underground, says Rioux, fourth from left.

"The thing that I love about our band is that the fans and friends haven't really changed a whole lot. We've gotten new fans and stuff like that, but we've stayed underground and true to our roots and it's nice that the people that started with us are still there with us, but it's gotten bigger and become a tradition in other cities outside of Boston which was really cool too."

When the tour wraps up they'll finalize a forthcoming b-sides release, as well as a live record and DVD.

"We want to sort of have a retrospective year before we jump on the next 10 years," he says. "I can't believe we're looking at our 10-year anniversary. It's bizarre for us."

If you go

Street Dogs
Wreck the Halls
Dec. 16-17
The Paradise, 967 Comm. Ave., Boston, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

99 percent for 10 years

A lot of bands might lend a charitable hand during the holiday season, but the Street Dogs have always remained steadfast in their commitment to worthwhile and political causes like the Wounded Warrior Project, Toys for Tots, and the protests in Madison, Wisc., earlier this year with the likes of Tom Morello, Rise Against and the Dropkick Murphys, for whom singer Mike McColgan was an original member.

"We've also gotten involved socially and politically in the sort of class war-type of 99 percent protests that are going on now," Rioux says. "We'll always, until they put us in the ground, advocate for labor unions. In New York this week we're going to try to get involved in the Occupy Wall Street movement."

Unlike a lot of the pop stars who've tried to latch themselves onto it lately, here's one band who actually belongs — they've been singing about this stuff for 10 years. It took long enough for everyone else to catch up.

LUKE O'NEIL
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▶ **moe.**
March 2
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

▶ **Dropkick Murphys**
St. Patrick's Day Tour 2012
March 15-16
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

▶ **Andrew Bird**
with Patrick Watson
May 6
House of Blues
(On sale Saturday)

▶ **An Evening with Yanni Under the Stars**
June 10
Bank of America Pavilion
(On sale Saturday)

On stage

Dir En Gray with the Birthday Massacre

Tuesday, 6 p.m.
The Paradise
967 Comm. Ave., Boston
$25, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

Yes, Dir En Gray are great, but let's talk about the Birthday Massacre a little. This goth-tastic Canadian synth-rock band calls to mind Madonna fronting New Order at first, but then the crunchy guitars and nu-metal beats come in, and you remember that they're contemporaries of Evanescence. Their liberal use of synth, however, as well as their singer's less histrionic style, makes them distinct from their American counterparts.

Kingsley Flood

Three Night Lovefest
Tonight through Saturday
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1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge

▶ Kingsley Flood begin the Lovefest tonight.

$10-$12, 617-547-0759
www.brownpapertickets.com

We normally devote this space to bands playing bigger venues, but Kingsley Flood are a rollicking rootsy local act who are celebrating the release of their "Colder Still" EP with a three-night stand at the Lizard. All told, these three nights total up to a lot of people you can fit in there. The nights are presented by different local blogs, such as Ryan's Smashing Life, Visible Voice, Kitchen Sessions and Boston Band Crush, and there are loads of different openers. So it's way better than one night in a big venue. METRO

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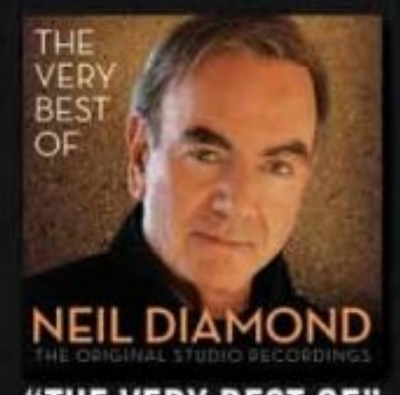

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▶ Ortiz

Report: Big Papi accepts arbitration

Big Papi isn't going anywhere.

David Ortiz planned to accept arbitration from the Red Sox at press time, according to multiple reports. The designated hitter told the team that he would stay in Boston at least for one more season. The salary is reported to be worth more than the $12.5 million Ortiz raked in last season.

Ortiz, 36, was holding out hope to sign a multi-year deal — or at least a two-year contract worth a reported $25 million — with the Sox, but those talks couldn't start until he accepted arbitration. Ortiz has been a longtime fixture at Fenway Park, leading the Red Sox to two World Series titles. Following a slow start, he batted .309 with 29 home runs and 96 RBIs last season.

METRO

Carter resurrects career with Pats

Former Redskin making impact in New England ◗ Has recorded 47 tackles and nine sacks this season ◗ Belichick praises strong work ethic

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Andre Carter feared his career might be over after a poor 2010 season. However, he's found new life in New England.

Going into Week 14 of the NFL season, it's safe to say the Patriots went 1-for-2 on former Redskins this off-season.

Trading for Albert Haynesworth: fail.

Signing Andre Carter: success.

While the former is clearly a lost cause no matter what team he gives 50 percent to, the latter has had a consistently successful career. Now, Carter finds himself having one of the best years of his 11-year career after what some might consider a down 2010 season.

"Everything I've done has been such a blessing," Carter said. "To be here, to get picked up, and I tell everybody, I thought I was actually done coming into this season. So, just to be productive, and just to have fun and play the game that I've been blessed to play for so many years, it's just a wonderful feeling."

Because of a few factors, including his age and the NFL lockout, Carter didn't know what his future held. But going into Sunday's game against his former team, he's recorded 47 tackles and nine sacks.

It's that production — and his leadership on and off the field — that have made this once under-the-radar signing perhaps the biggest of the Patriots' off-season.

On TV Sunday

Patriots at Redskins, 1 p.m. (CBS)

"Everything I've done has been such a blessing ... I thought I was actually done coming into the season." CARTER

"He's done a good job at everything," Pats coach Bill Belichick said. "He's very attentive. He's in excellent physical condition. He's out there, he takes a lot of plays, he plays them hard in practice and the games."

"Very unselfish player that works hard [and] is consistent. You get the same effort out of him every day, seven days a week ... He's been such a pleasure to have on this team and he's added a lot to our football team in a lot of different ways."

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

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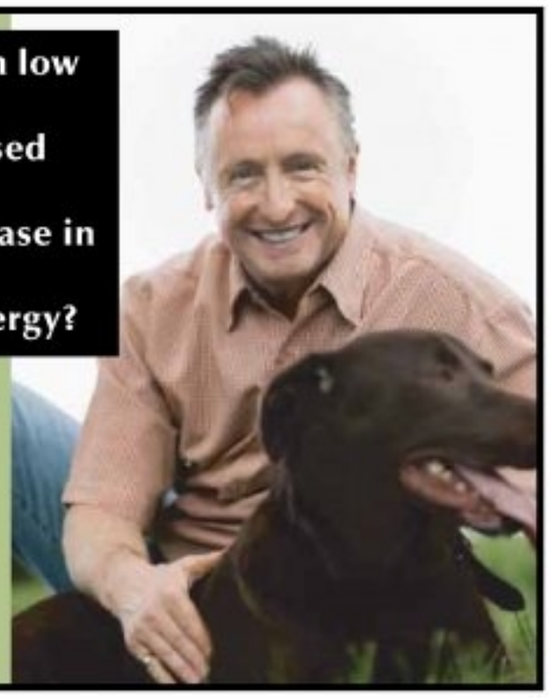

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At this point in the season, we don't need a bunch of reserves to use during byes or stashes to hold for a possible breakout. All we need is insurance against losing our studs.

In like Flynn

Aaron Rodgers isn't the only talented quarterback on the Packers' roster. If A-Rodg were to go down, backup **Matt Flynn** would be a top-10 fantasy option with those weapons at his disposal. Also, I'd make sure to back up **Greg Jennings** and **Jordy Nelson** with **James Jones**.

Behind the Hill

Shaun Hill is another backup quarterback set up well for production if called upon. If you own **Matthew Stafford**, you should own Hill. **Mike Vick** owners already saw the need for **Vince Young**.

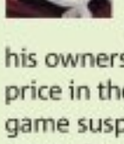
Back the backs

Handcuffing can save a season. **Arian Foster** owners that didn't have **Ben Tate** to start the year struggled. If you lost **Darren McFadden** and didn't have **Michael Bush**, you're likely in a free fall. **C.J. Spiller**'s big-play ability is softening the blow to those that owned **Fred Jackson**. Be sure you're protected at the running back spot as we head into the playoffs.

Aaron Rodgers owners should roster Matt Flynn for the playoffs.

NFL news

Chief Davis



▶ **Fred Davis** got caught smoking weed for the third time, and now his owners are paying the price in the form of a four-game suspension. Backup Logan Paulsen isn't a real option, so it's time to swing for the fences on the waiver wire.

Malcom Floyd

▶ **WR, Chargers**
Floyd's hip is healthy and the Chargers have three straight games in plus weather.

Marion Barber

▶ **RB, Bears**
With Matt Forte (knee) out, Barber will get most of the early-down work and all the goal-line chances.

Golden Tate

▶ **WR, Seahawks**
Tate has stepped up in the absence of Sidney Rice, quickly becoming a favorite of the coaches.

Hoops is back

Here are three breakout candidates to target as hoops drafts get going:

1 **Jared Dudley, G/F, PHX** — As the Suns' long-term starter on the wing, at least 2.0 treys and 2.0 steals per game is within reach.

2 **DeAndre Jordan, C, LAC** — The Clips see Jordan, not Chris Kaman, as their center to build around. He'll be a blocks and boards machine.

3 **J.J. Redick, SG, ORL** — One of the game's best pure long-range shooters is locked in as a starter on a team that plays "4 around 1." It's going to rain.

Harvard puts rank on line at UConn

Crimson are ranked for the first time in school's history But now they face the defending champions

Harvard men's basketball is living the dream this week. Now, here comes the wake-up call.

The Crimson have gone where no Harvard men's team has ever been, taking the No. 25 spot in this week's Associated Press poll — the first poll appearance in school history — after compiling an 8-0 record.

But the trip into such rarified air could be a brief one. Tonight, Harvard takes part in its first-ever clash between ranked teams, taking on No. 9 UConn, the defending national champions.

"That's our reward," coach Tommy Amaker said. "We get to play a great UConn team."

Led by the powerful frontcourt of Keith Wright (11.4 points per game) and Kyle Casey (10.9), Harvard recently won the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament which also featured UConn. But the Huskies lost in the semifinals, delaying their meeting.

"We had a vision," Amaker said. "There is greatness all across this campus, great departments, great people. We thought we could become part of that, and put out a product that could perhaps connect all of it, and we asked ourselves the question, 'Why not?'"

JEFF GOLDBERG

MITCHELL LAYTON/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tommy Amaker has the Crimson undefeated at 8-0.

On TV tonight
25 Harvard at 9 UConn
7 p.m., ESPN2

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